BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 08-31* *August 1st, 2008*

- **Production at BC sawmills and planing mills down 28% in June**
- **Lotteries popular with British Columbians; 79% played in 2006/07**
- **Imported beers gaining in popularity**

The Economy

- **Sawmills and planing mills in the province produced 28.2% less lumber in May than in the same month last year.** Mills in the Interior slowed their output by 27.2%, while production at coastal mills was down even more substantially (-34.4%). Canadian lumber production slipped 24.3%, due not only to significant downturns in BC, but also in Quebec (-14.5%), Canada's second-biggest lumber producing province. Year-to-date, BC sawmills have accounted for over half the lumber production in Canada, while Quebec made up a further 21%.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Food services and drinking places in the province saw revenues climb (+1.2%, *seasonally adjusted*) in May, building on strong growth in the previous month (+2.2%).** Drinking places took in significantly more (2.4%), but food service establishments also had a lucrative month (+1.0%). Canadian establishments remained stable (+0.6%) with revenues up most notably at limited service eating places (+0.9%). New Brunswick (+2.0%), Nova Scotia (+1.3%) and BC recorded the largest increases, while PEI, where receipts slipped 1.9%, was the only province to record slower sales in May.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Gambling

- **In the 2006/2007 fiscal year, approximately 79% of British Columbians aged 19 or older played a lottery, 32% visited a BC casino and 8% visited a provincial commercial bingo hall or community gaming centre.**

In terms of player characteristics, 51% were female and most (73%) were aged 35 or older. About half (51%) were from households with annual incomes of $60,000 or greater, and well over two thirds (69%) were educated at the post-secondary level.

The British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) generated $2.6 billion in revenue from the province's casinos, lotteries and bingo halls in 2007/08. From this revenue, just under $650 million was paid out to lottery and bingo winners, and a further $823 million went to commissions & service fees, taxes and other operating-related expenses. Of the remaining net income (just over $1 billion), most went to the provincial government, with more than half going into consolidated revenue ($678 million). Charitable & community organizations received $146 million

Data Source: British Columbia Lottery Corporation

Liquor Sales

- **Imported beers are gaining an increasingly strong toehold in the BC beer market.** During the twelve-month period ending in June, the BC Liquor Distribution Branch sold nearly 44 million litres of imported beer, an increase of 11.0% over the previous year. By comparison, domestic beer saw sales increase by a mere 0.4%. Imported beer accounted for over 15% of total beer sales during the twelve-moth period. In recent years, sales of imported beer have been increasing steadily, while sales of domestic beer have shown more volatility.

With nearly three quarters (73%) of the total market share, beer is by far the most popular product sold at liquor stores. Wine (14%), spirits (7%), and refreshments (6%) such as ciders and coolers account for smaller shares of the total volume sold. However, wine sales have been increasing. Over-

Report BC Aboriginal Identity Population—Age Distribution

Did you know...
Half (53%) of Canadians are buying more "green" products than they were a year ago, but only 47% agree that they would be willing to pay more for products with a lesser impact on the environment. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

all, total sales in litres of wine increased by 7.0% over the 2007/08 fiscal year, compared to 1.9% for beer. Unlike beer, domestic and imported wines are relatively equal in popularity, though sales of domestic wines (+10.5%) increased more substantially in 2006/07 than did those of imported wines (+3.2%).

Data Source: BC Liquor Distribution Branch

Film and Video

- **Despite a slight drop in revenues among Canada's film and video distributors, the industry reported a healthy profit margin of 25% in 2006 (up from 19% in 2005).** Film and video distributors get most of their revenues from sales to theatres and TV broadcasters. Ontario firms dominated Canadian distribution, earning 83% of total operating revenues in 2006, while Quebec firms accounted for 14%.

Data Source: SC Cat. #87F0010XWE

The Nation

- The Canadian economy slowed in May, with real GDP shrinking (-0.1%) after rebounding in the previous month. Output was down in most of the goods producing industries, which contracted 0.5% overall. The biggest decline was in mining, oil & gas extraction (-1.2%), but construction was down 0.4% while manufacturing stalled (+0.1%) after surging ahead (+1.7%) in May. In the service sector, GDP was unchanged, as gains in some industries were offset by weakness in others, including wholesale (-0.3%) and transportation (-0.1%), which have strong ties to the goods sector.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canadian manufacturers' selling prices were 3.6% higher this June than in the same month of last year.** The increase was mostly attributable to climbing prices for petroleum & coal (+49.6%) products. Prices for fruit, vegetables, feeds & other food products (+10.4%), chemicals (+8.2%) and pulp & paper products (+2.9%) were also higher than in June of 2007. However, increases were tempered by lower prices for motor vehicles & other transport equipment (-1.7%), primary metals (-2.1%) and lumber & other wood products (-3.3%). Excluding petroleum & coal, the overall Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) would have increased by just 0.4%.

BC producers of softwood lumber products received less (-7.8%) for their lumber than they had a year earlier. Prices for interior lumber (-11.3%) were significantly lower, while the rate of decrease for coastal lumber (-0.3%) was markedly slower. On the other hand, selling prices for BC pulpwood chips were up slightly 0.2% over June of 2007.

The cost of raw materials jumped 31.9% in June. The acute increase was due mostly to a whopping 76.8% hike in prices for mineral oils, as crude oil prices climbed at a much sharper rate than in June of last year. Indeed, if mineral fuels were excluded, prices for raw materials would have fallen (-6.2%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Up High in the Sky

- **Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) activity in BC's airspace appears to have decreased.** There were 192 UFO sightings reported in the province last year, down from 209 in 2006. Conversely, overall Canadian UFO sightings reached new heights in 2007, soaring 13%, to 836. Over two thirds (329 sightings) of the UFO sightings reported in the country last year were in Ontario. BC, which has boasted twice as many reports as Ontario in previous years, was down to only 23% of the national total. However, Kelowna and Vancouver (19 and 17 sightings, respectively) remained among the five cities with the most UFO reports in the nation. Of the 836 UFO sightings reported in Canada in 2007, the majority were nocturnal lights (413) or disks (244). Only one of the sightings was an alleged abduction or contact experience.

Cumulatively, British Columbians remain much more likely than other Canadians to report seeing unidentified flying objects. Since 1989, 2,336 of the 7,597 UFO sightings reported in Canada have been in this province. Perhaps BC residents are a particularly fascinating bunch and that is why UFOs spend more time hovering in the skies above us. *Data Source: 2007 Canadian UFO Survey. Speculation courtesy of BC STATS*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Contact: Data Services
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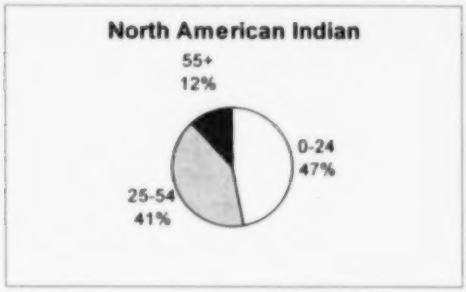
BC Aboriginal Identity Population—Age Distribution

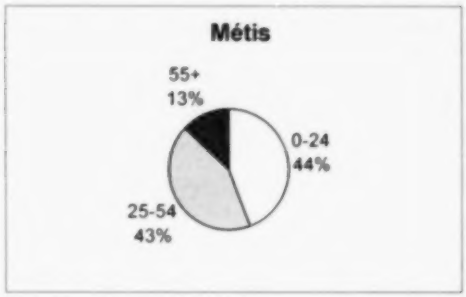
In British Columbia Aboriginal population[1] is much younger than the non-Aboriginal population. Forty-seven per cent of the North American Indian and 44 per cent of Métis population are less than 25 years old, compared to 29 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population.

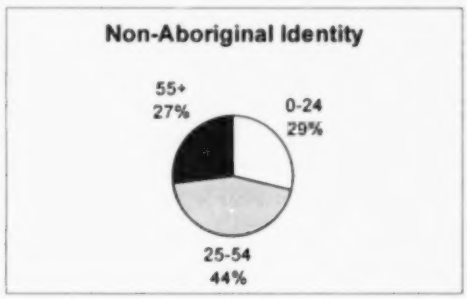
Children under the age of five represent 9.1 per cent of the North American Indian and 6.6 of the Métis population compared to only 4.8 percent of non-Aboriginal population. On the other hand North American Indian seniors aged 55 and over accounted for 12 per cent and Métis aged 55 and over accounted for 13 per cent, compared with 27 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population. Those aged 75 years and over account for only 1.6 per cent of the American Indian population and 1.5 per cent of the Métis, while in the non-Aboriginal population they constitute 6.7 per cent of the population.

There are more females than males in all North American Indian, Métis and non-Aboriginal populations. However, young males under 20 years old outnumber the females in all Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations.

The median age of the North American Indian population is 27.2, compared to the Métis at 29.7, while the non-Aboriginal population is 41.1. The median age is the midway point where exactly one-half of the population is older, and the other half is younger.







[1] Based on Aboriginal identity. The Aboriginal identity population is made up of those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group (North American Indian, Métis, Inuit), and/or who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian (as defined by the Indian Act of Canada), and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

Age Structure of the North American Indian, Métis and Non-Aboriginal Population

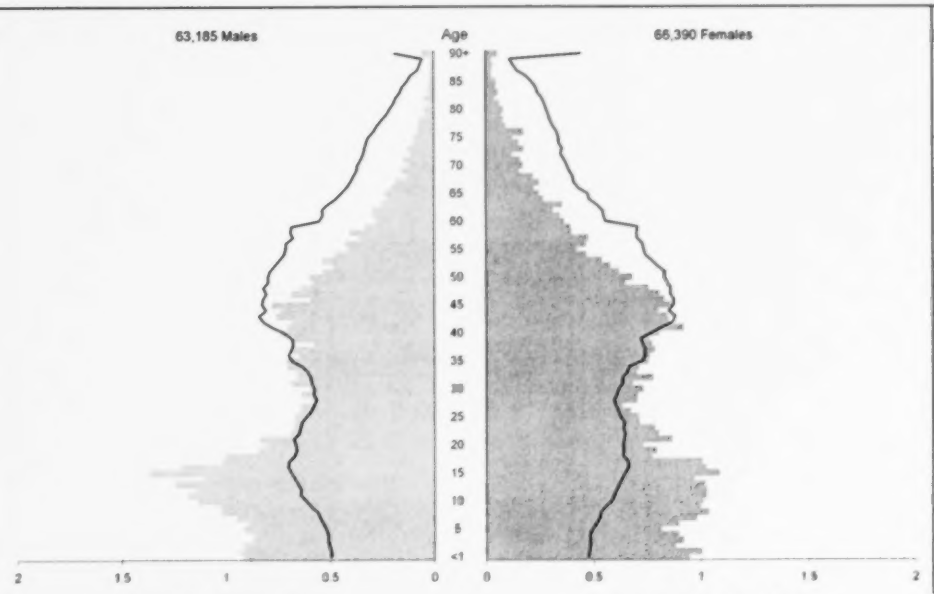
	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
North American Indian population	**129,575**	**100.0**	**63,185**	**100.0**	**66,390**	**100.0**
0-4 years	11,780	9.1	5,790	9.2	5,995	9.0
5-9 years	12,295	9.5	6,200	9.8	6,095	9.2
10-14 years	14,020	10.8	7,495	11.9	6,520	9.8
15-19 years	13,080	10.1	7,040	11.1	6,040	9.1
20-24 years	9,765	7.5	4,745	7.5	5,020	7.6
25-34 years	17,405	13.4	8,345	13.2	9,060	13.6
35-44 years	19,300	14.9	8,920	14.1	10,385	15.6
45-54 years	16,395	12.7	7,655	12.1	8,740	13.2
55-64 years	9,095	7.0	4,215	6.7	4,875	7.3
65-74 years	4,310	3.3	1,930	3.1	2,385	3.6
75 years and over	2,130	1.6	850	1.3	1,275	1.9
Median Age	**Total**	**27.1**	**Male**	**25.4**	**Female**	**29.0**

	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Métis Population	**59,445**	**100.0**	**28,595**	**100.0**	**30,850**	**100.0**
0-4 years	3,905	6.6	2,100	7.3	1,805	5.9
5-9 years	5,155	8.7	2,690	9.4	2,460	8.0
10-14 years	6,390	10.7	3,135	11.0	3,255	10.6
15-19 years	6,160	10.4	2,980	10.4	3,180	10.3
20-24 years	4,580	7.7	2,170	7.6	2,410	7.8
25-34 years	7,295	12.3	3,445	12.0	3,855	12.5
35-44 years	9,215	15.5	4,145	14.5	5,070	16.4
45-54 years	8,940	15.0	4,045	14.1	4,900	15.9
55-64 years	4,785	8.0	2,390	8.4	2,395	7.8
65-74 years	2,180	3.7	1,135	4.0	1,040	3.4
75 years and over	835	1.4	355	1.2	485	1.6
Median Age	**Total**	**29.7**	**Male**	**28.4**	**Female**	**31.0**

	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Non-Aboriginal population	**3,878,310**	**100**	**1,903,525**	**100**	**1,974,780**	**100**
0-4 years	185,915	4.8	95,025	5.0	90,895	4.6
5-9 years	202,525	5.2	104,450	5.5	98,075	5.0
10-14 years	235,780	6.1	121,080	6.4	114,705	5.8
15-19 years	253,345	6.5	131,350	6.9	121,990	6.2
20-24 years	249,850	6.4	126,790	6.7	123,060	6.2
25-34 years	472,105	12.2	228,800	12.0	243,305	12.3
35-44 years	593,000	15.3	287,370	15.1	305,630	15.5
45-54 years	635,060	16.4	308,250	16.2	326,810	16.5
55-64 years	488,225	12.6	240,955	12.7	247,270	12.5
65-74 years	303,605	7.8	148,485	7.8	155,125	7.9
75 years and over	258,890	6.7	110,975	5.8	147,915	7.5
Median age	**Total**	**41.1**	**Male**	**40.4**	**Female**	**41.7**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Table 97-558-XCB2006007 and Aboriginal Peoples Highlight Table 1

Age pyramid of North American Indian (Identity) in BC Compared to British Columbia Population (line)



Males, by single year of age, as a percent of the total population

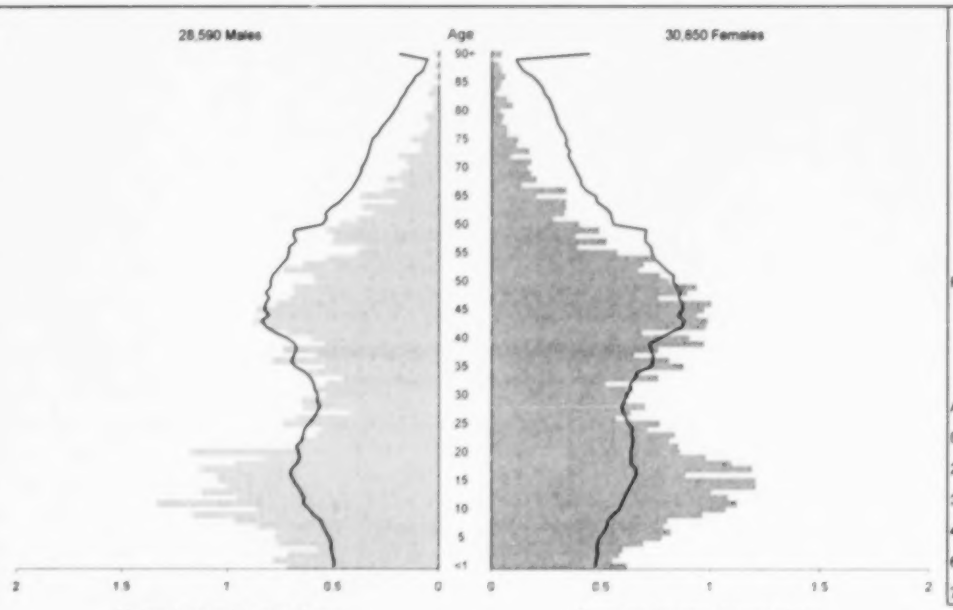
Females, by single year of age, as a percent of the total population

North American Indian (Identity) in BC: Based on the 2006 Census

Subject Group	Compared to
North American Indian (identity) in BC	British Columbia
Population (single year of age data)	
129,575	4,113,485
Age Cohorts % (5-year cohort data)	
0-19 39.5	23.2
20-29 14.1	12.4
30-44 21.8	21.4
45-64 19.7	28.4
65+ 5.0	14.6
75+ 1.6	7.0

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census. Produced by BC Stats, www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

Age pyramid of Métis (Identity) in BC Compared to British Columbia Population (line)



Males, by single year of age, as a percent of the total population

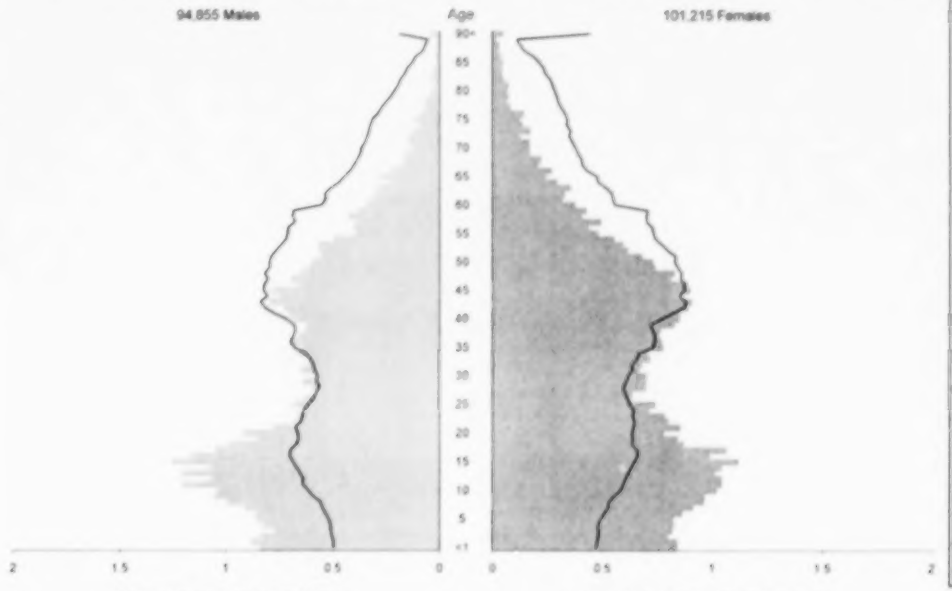
Females, by single year of age, as a percent of the total population

Métis (Identity) in BC: Based on the 2006 Census

Subject Group	Métis (Identity) in BC	Compared to British Columbia
Population (single year of age data)	59,445	4,113,485
Age Cohorts % (5-year cohort data)		
0-19	36.4	23.2
20-29	14.1	12.4
30-44	21.4	21.4
45-64	23.1	28.4
65+	5.1	14.6
75+	1.4	7.0

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census. Produced by BC Stats, www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

Age pyramid of Aboriginal Identity Population in BC Compared to British Columbia Population (line)



Males, by single year of age, as a percent of the total population

Females, by single year of age, as a percent of the total population

Aboriginal Identity Population: Based on the 2006 Census

Subject Group	Aboriginal identity Population	Compared to British Columbia
Population (single year of age data)	196,075	4,113,485
Age Cohorts % (5-year cohort data)		
0-19	38.4	23.2
20-29	14.1	12.4
30-44	21.7	21.4
45-64	20.8	28.4
65+	5.1	14.6
75+	1.6	7.0

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census. Produced by BC Stats, www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/08	% change on one year ago
BC	4,428.4	1.5
Canada	33,223.8	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 28)		
(BC - at market prices)	2007	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	190,214	5.5
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	163,200	3.1
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)*	37,258	1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	24,728	3.0
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May	3,483	2.2
Merchandise Exports - May	2,826	10.4
Retail Sales - May	4,759	0.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jun 2008)	one year ago	% change
BC	3.0	1.6
Vancouver	3.1	1.8
Victoria	2.8	1.0
Canada	3.1	2.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jun '08	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,432	0.3
Employed - BC	2,322	0.2
Unemployed - BC	110	1.7
		May '08
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.5	4.5
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.2	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 30/08	Aug 1/07
Prime Business Rate	4.75	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.95	7.05
- 5 year	7.15	7.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 30/08	Aug 1/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0242	1.0569
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9777	0.9456
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun '08	one year ago
BC	782.92	5.8
Canada	781.94	4.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Immigration & Diversity Profiles

The WelcomeBC site now features two series of graphic profiles based on the 2006 Census. Over 200 individual documents in each series reveal the characteristics of British Columbia, its regions, and communities.

www.welcomebc.ca/en/growing_your_community/trends/2006/

NEW: RSS enabled for our site

We now have two RSS feeds for our users. One provides updates for just our analytical articles; the other is for everything we do, including the analytical articles, but also announcements, data releases, and publications.

Analytical articles:
www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/rss/analytical.ashx

Everything:
www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/rss/everythingnew.ashx

Improved: Article Index on site

Access BC Stats' reports and publications through a searchable database. Searches can be performed by subject, author, publication or date. Link to this page by choosing **Reports & Publications** near the bottom of our left sidebar.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/guide.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, July 2008
- Current Statistics, July 2008
- Tourism Sector Monitor, July 2008

Next week

- Labour Force Survey, July 2008
- Earnings and Employment Trends, July 2008

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